VISION IAS

www.visionias.in

GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1417)

Name of Candidate	SARTHAK AGRAWAL		
Medium Hindi/Eng.	ENGLISH	Registration Number	937212
Center	ONLINE	Date	5th Dec '20

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

Signature of Examiner

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. **Contextual Competence**
2. **Content Competence**
3. **Language Competence**
4. **Introduction Competence**
5. **Structure - Presentation Competence**
6. **Conclusion Competence**

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

1. Dadabhai Naoroji left an indelible imprint on the national movement. Explain. (150 words) 10
दादाभाई नौरोजी ने राष्ट्रीय आंदोलन पर एक अमिट छाप छोड़ी। स्पष्ट कीजिए।

Dadabhai Naoroji was a moderate leader of the INC, an economic critic of British colonialism, a prolific writer and trader, and also someone who helped further Indian interests abroad.

Economic impact

→ Drain of Wealth theory shed the veil on the idea that British colonialism was somehow in India's economic interests.

→ He campaigned for more import duties on British imports, improvement in education & reduction in expenditure on military, & in general using Indian tax resources to further ~~the~~ India's development

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Political impact

→ As a moderate, Naoroji belived in the 3P – Prayer, ~~Pacit~~ Petition & Protest – strategy.

→ Effectively raised Indian demands in the Councils.

International impact

→ Founded East India Association.

→ 1st South Asian MP in British Parliament elected in 1892 from North London

→ Spread awareness ~~of~~ on the Indian nationalist movement in Britain and campaigned for causes to benefit the Indians.

Naoroji was a true nationalist who made a vital contribution to the Moderate movement and many economic criticism of colonialism.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

2. The Quit India movement marked a new direction in the struggle against the British colonial rule in India. Analyse. **(150 words) 10**

भारत छोड़ो आंदोलन ने भारत में ब्रिटिश औपनिवेशिक शासन के विरूद्ध संघर्ष में एक नई दिशा को चिन्हित किया। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Gandhiji gave the slogan 'Do or Die' at the start of the Quit India Movement (QIM). It was largely a decentralised struggle with most of the leadership behind bars.

Causes of QIM

→ British not amenable to India's demand for independence post WW II
- Wavell offer & Cripps Mission (1942, Dominion status) unacceptable.

New developments

→ Women & youth joined in large numbers.

→ Popular protest at the citizens' level - not led / coordinated by the INC.

→ Single-point demand of full-independence
- no concessions or just avenging

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Certain wrongs

→ Took violent turns in some quarters.

→ At the peak of WW II so British were put under great pressure.

→ Hindu-Muslim unity breakdown due to extreme communalism.

→ People asked to quit Govt. / Army

~~Old~~ Commonalities with past struggles

→ Hindu-Muslim togetherness never reached the level of the Non-Cooperation movement

→ Even at the time of NCM & CDM, nationalists were arrested.

→ Ultimately contained by British.

Conclusion

The QIM was indeed a major struggle that marked a new direction while retaining certain similarities with earlier struggles

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

3. The end of World War II marked the birth of a new international order. Examine. **(150 words) 10**

द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध के अंत ने एक नई अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यवस्था को जन्म दिया। परीक्षण कीजिए।

The end of WW II in 1945 was perhaps the most important event in the 20th c., rivalled only by the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, which incidentally was also linked to the global order that emerged after WW II.

Important developments that gave birth to a new global order

→ Decolonisation in the Indian Subcontinent, Indo-China, & some parts of Africa and the Middle-East

- generated a number of new nation states that survive till date.

→ Fall of Germany, Japan, Italy as losers to the Allied cause in WW II

- German & Japanese domination made way for US & USSR.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

→ ~~Receding~~ Receding of Europe - Massive destruction wrought by WW II - reqd. a Marshall plan from US to revive
- as colonialism ended, European (mainly British & French hegemony) also gave way to new powers.

→ Cold War between US & USSR - seeds sown in WW II - lasted till split of USSR.

→ Dangers of nuclear weapons recognised - denuclearisation treaties started urgently.

→ Birth of United Nations - vastly more successful than League of Nations due to US, USSR presence - completed 75 yrs. recently

→ Development become an important concept
- development assistance to Europe & newly independent countries.

Conclusion

The end of WW II was indeed a momentous occasion that gave birth to the present-day global order.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

4. The Simla Agreement (1972) and Lahore Declaration (1999) are two key milestones in the history of the Indian subcontinent. Discuss.

(150 words) 10

शिमला समझौता (1972) और लाहौर घोषणा-पत्र (1999) भारतीय उपमहाद्वीप के इतिहास में दो महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धियां हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

Simla Agreement (1972) brought peace to Indo-Pak until the Kargil War 2 decads later. Lahore Declaration b/w Sharif & Vajpayee was expected to have a similar impact but the Kargil War hurt this impression

→ In Simla agreement, both sides agreed to settle disputes bilaterally

→ Respecting territorial integrity of both sides.

→ Not making significant changes to disputed areas.

→ Cooperation in various field.

Don't write anything this margin

→ Lahore Declaration - Vajpayee wanted to make borders irrelevant through increased trade, common currency in South Asia and bus-travel & rly. connectivity b/w the 2 countries.

→ Agai Kashmir dispute was to be resolved bilaterally & peacefully.

→ Threat of 2 nuclear powers at war ended.

→ Cooperation in cinema, sports & culture was hoped to increase.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

5. Social security should not only involve economic empowerment but also social empowerment. Discuss in the context of India. **(150 words) 10**
सामाजिक सुरक्षा में न केवल आर्थिक सशक्तीकरण अपितु सामाजिक सशक्तीकरण भी सम्मिलित होना चाहिए। भारत के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

Social security is frequently aimed at elderly, disabled and other disadvantaged populations in the form of unemployment insurance, old age pensions, maternal payments etc.

Social empowerment

→ of women, elderly & disabled is sought to be effected through such schems

- reduce discrimination against needy and disadvantaged popⁿ if they have State backing.

→ PM-KISAN also helps raise the status of farmers in India.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

- Pension schemes for unorganised workers been launched recently
  - they lack ~~very~~ job security and hence often exploited by middlemen and employers.

→ Benefits to women raise their status when they face economic violence at home

→ Minority scholarships offered to improve their assimilation in society.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

6. Explain with examples how globalisation is manifested in both local in the global and the global in the local. **(150 words) 10**

उदाहरण देते हुए स्पष्ट कीजिए कि वैश्वीकरण वैश्विक में स्थानीय और स्थानीय में वैश्विक, दोनों में किस प्रकार प्रकट होता है।

Globalisation has blurred national boundaries to such an extent that the local-global distinction is often very hard to make.

Examples of ~~local in global~~ global in local

→ McDonalds' and Burger King - global outlets - sell aaloo patty and non-beef burgers only in India. The 'paneer patty' burger is truly a global in local manifestation.

→ Levi's jeans frequently copied and sold at lower price in India

→ Language - Hindi & many Indian languages speakers frequently use English words - 'hello' and 'thank you' almost as common in Hindi speakers 'bijo' as in English speakers.

Don't write anything this margin

→ Hollywood movies frequently are more popular than in-house Bollywood movies.

~~Examples of local~~ in

→ Global value chains - an 'Indian' product will often have most of its components sourced from China / USA.

Examples of local in global

→ Many Hindi words part of official English vocabulary
eg. - loot, pucca, pyjamas

→ Indian actors starring in prominent American & British films (eg James Bond franchise)

→ Indian-made inputs (assembly) in mobile phones used over the world.

→ Indian food a delicacy in many cuisines around the world
- including Indian spices & 'curry'.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

7. In light of persistence of various forms of violence against women in India, discuss the ways in which the issue can be addressed effectively.

(150 words) 10

भारत में महिलाओं के विरूद्ध हिंसा के विभिन्न रूपों की विद्यमानता के आलोक में, उन उपायों की विवेचना कीजिए जिनसे इस मुद्दे का प्रभावी ढंग से समाधान किया जा सकता है।

India has signed and been an active member of the Convention on Elimination of all forms of violence against women as well as the Beijing declaration in 1995. that protects and furthers interests of women

Various forms of violence against Indian women

→ Physical violence - domestic violence still prevalent, saw a spurt during lockdown

→ Sexual violence - rapes reported frequently (up by >7% as to NCRB data)

Rape within marriage also very prevalent.

→ Economic violence - no income security & ~~wod~~ economic independence to vast majority of women

→ Social violence - status of women still not considered equal to men (female

Don't write anything this margin

foeticide in some parts.)

→ Health & Education discrimination — Boys get expensive tuition & health facilities while girls are ignored.

Way forward

→ Marital rape should be treated as seriously as any other rape offense.

→ Timely punishment under the appropriate acts by setting up fast-track courts.

→ Increased public investment in security, lighting, transportation.

→ Safe spaces for women. eg. free metro rides / bus rides for women in Delhi.

→ Gender sensitisation in police & judiciary (recently, a HC asked molester to tie a rakhi.)

→ Improving female labour force participation (at ~25% at the moment)

→ Social & political campaigns — Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao & passing women's reservation bill.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

8. What is an urban forest? Highlight its benefits and steps taken by the government to promote urban forestry in India. **(150 words) 10**

शहरी वन क्या हैं? इनके लाभों और भारत में शहरी वानिकी को बढ़ावा देने के लिए सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों पर प्रकाश डालिए।

An urban forest is a dense collection of trees ~~with~~ within the confines of an urban area and enclosed within city limits eg: Aarey forest in Mumbai.

Benefits

→ Air filtration services to all at no charge.

→ A place to visit and spend time in to relax or for tourism

→ Improves the ecosystem of the city & the area - often streams flow through urban forests & wild animals too maybe present.

→ Minor forest produce like leaves, bark can be sourced from some urban forests.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ न लिखें)

Steps

→ ~~Destroy~~ ~~Destructing~~ Destroying urban forests for economic development usually frowned upon

- EIA norms, protests in Mumbai against Metro shed construction

→ District admin providing saplings free of cost in Gurgaon to promote urban forestry

→ New Green Credit Scheme - planting forests in accordance with CAMPA being encouraged outside traditional forest areas by FAC.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

9. How has globalization impacted the location of the IT industry?
(150 words) 10

वैश्वीकरण ने IT उद्योग की अवस्थिति को किस प्रकार प्रभावित किया है?

Globalisation is the progressive reduction in importance of national boundaries in influencing economic, social & cultural practices ~~& more~~ through increasing connectivity across borders.

Location of IT industry

→ IT industry is a conglomeration of different processes
- software development (eg. Android)
- internet maintenance
- new innovations (eg. IoT)
- backend service (eg. call-centres)
- data processing.

→ IT industry is spread across the world - present in USA, Western Europe, India, Philipines & South East Asia in general.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Impact of globalisation

→ Cheap ~~backend t~~ back-end tasks outsourced to Indians & Filipinos (due to skills, English speaking population). → call-centres.

→ Data processing centres & staff employed in low-wage countries like India.

→ Innovations in IT happen in Silicon Valley, ~~Sa~~ California, Singapore or London.

→ Maintenance of systems outsource to companies like Infosys & Wipro in India

- Short-term cross-border movement of workers (India → US) made easy with air travel.
- Internet, Skype, real-time communication

prompted by globalisation has distributed this industry around the world as per comparative advantage.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

10. How can eco-tourism be used to sustainably harness the potential of tourism industry in India? Discuss the challenges and steps taken by the government in this context. **(150 words) 10**

भारत में पर्यटन उद्योग की क्षमता का संधारणीय रूप से दोहन करने हेतु पारिस्थितिकीय पर्यटन का कैसे उपयोग किया जा सकता है? इससे जुड़ी चुनौतियों और इस संदर्भ में सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों की विवेचना कीजिए।

Ecotourism refers to tourism to ecologically sensitive places that takes care to preserve the ecology of that area through wilful action.

Possible gains to industry

→ Himalayas, North East, Western Ghats are ideal destinations

→ Ecologically minded western travellers

→ Later to local eco-development + sustainable waste disposal.

→ Photography can help generate awareness around the world.

→ Wildlife tourisms & expeditions.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Challenges

→ Threat of plastic & other wastes

→ Landslides in Western Ghats - fragile ecosystem.

→ Cleanliness is poor in general.

→ Adverse regime for tourists

Steps

→ Developing dedicated eco-tourism sites.

→ Stringent enforcement of regulations.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

11. The advent of Buddhism and Jainism was instrumental in the development of architecture in ancient India. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

प्राचीन भारत में स्थापत्य कला के विकास में बौद्ध धर्म और जैन धर्म का उद्भव सहायक रहा। चर्चा कीजिए।

Buddhism and Jainism developed around 400BC in the Indian subcontinent, prompted by ~~many~~ dissatisfaction among many groups with the then prevalent dominance of Brahmanism within the Hindu religion.

Architecture of Buddhism & Jainism

→ A large number of impressive stupas (like Sanchi Stupa) and Viharas were developed under Buddhist patronage.

- Earlier, bronze idols of Hindu Gods & Goddesses were more prevalent but slowly, under rulers like Ashoka, Maurya & Kanishka, Stupas were

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

built in large numbers.

→ The Dilwara temples in Rajasthan were impressive feats in Ancient Indian Jain Architecture.

→ Later, idols of Buddha started being constructed at a large scale with the advent of Mahayana Buddhism.

→ Greco-Bactrian elements were also incorporated into Buddhist architecture, particularly with the way Buddha's hair was depicted in such idols (resembled Greek Gods)

Spread

Buddhist arch architecture spread throughout the subcontinent, with the statues of Buddha in Bamiyan, ~~exists~~ in Afghanistan being some

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

of the largest (were unfortunately destroyed by the Taliban.)

→ Even today, GoI has developed a Buddhist tourist circuit to explore Buddhist architecture in different parts of India (sleeping Buddha in Kushinagar is a masterpiece).

→ Collaboration with Nepal & countries in South-East Asia is also being encouraged to properly capture the splendour of ancient Indian Buddhist architecture.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

12. The reactionary policies of Lord Lytton and the liberal policies of his successor Lord Rippon acted as catalyst in the formation of the Indian National Congress. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

लॉर्ड लिटन की प्रतिक्रियावादी नीतियों और उसके उत्तराधिकारी लॉर्ड रिपन की उदार नीतियों ने भारतीय राष्ट्रीय कांग्रेस के गठन में उत्प्रेरक का कार्य किया। चर्चा कीजिए।

The Indian National Congress (INC) was formed in 1885 by A.O. Hume to further the nationalist cause in India

Link between INC formation and Viceroy's'

→ Lord Ripon is known as the father of ~~self~~ local government in India.

→ He also reinstated Alexander Cunningham as DG of ASI and started funding the institution again after his predecessor's withdrawal

- Clearly he was more invested in India's welfare compared to ~~his~~ previous Viceroys like Lytton.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

→ Lytton on the other hand waged expensive ~~burdens~~ wars ~~a~~ that weakend India's finances and followed it up by reactionary policies like

- censorship of vernacular newspapers
- restricting civil liberties
- extreme indifference to India's nationalist aspirations
- rebuke to the moderates' theory that the British wanted to do good to India

→ Nationalists were repulsed by Lytton's policies and encouraged by Ripon's liberal moves

- this precipitated the founding of the INC.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Other causes behind INC formation

→ Social reform had slowed post 1857
- to pitch for more liberal laws.

→ Improve the status of Indian industry
- reeling against unfair competition.

→ Safety valve theory.

→ Promoting the interests of the bourgeois
- initial leaders were against labour reforms that helped workers.

Conclusion

Although a number of factors contributed to the formation of the Congress, the attitudes & policies of two Viceroys - Lytton and Ripon - probably had an outsized importance compared to the other Viceroys.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

13. Gandhiji changed his methods of struggle against the British from time-to-time to suit the varied circumstances and problems that needed to be tackled. Analyse. **(250 words) 15**

गांधी जी ने विभिन्न परिस्थितियों और समस्याओं जिनसे निपटने की आवश्यकता थी, के अनुकूल समय-समय पर अंग्रेजों के विरूद्ध संघर्ष की अपनी विधियों में परिवर्तन किया। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

While Gandhiji called off the Non Cooperation Movement (NCM) ~~in 19~~ prematurely due to the killing of 22 policemen at Chauri Chaura, two decades later he gave the slogan 'Do or Die' at the time of the Quit India Movement, which some historians describe as evidence of Gandhiji's militant mood at that time.

NCM (Moderate-ist)

→ Gandhiji was measured in his approach in the late 1990s and early 1920s, believing that the British were fundamentally just and will concede the demands of the Indian nationalists.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

→ He was reluctant to ask people to quit Govt service or stop paying taxes at this point.

→ Focus was more on Hindu-Muslim unity and getting peasants to join the struggle.

Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM)

→ After the lull of the 1920s, Gandhiji wanted millions of people to band together against the British.

- Used salt as a means of protest to relate to the common people

→ Understood that people were more impatient & wanted the revolutionaries like Bhagat Singh to succeed

- Pleaded Lord Irwin to commute Bhagat Singh's & others' death sentences despite disagreeing with their approach.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

1930s – Social reform first

→ After the Poona Pact, Gandhiji concentrated on removal of untouchability

- the nationalist cause made way for social justice (nation building activity.)

Adapting to left-wing in Congress

→ He was not on board with Nehru/Bose's socialism; & wanted to support Britain in WW II, yet was swayed by these young activists.

CIM – militant streak

→ Since no concession yet, asked people to quit Govt service, not pay taxes, for police to not fire on countrymen, Armymen to quit, bureaucracy to fall in line

- Extremist approach

Conclusion

Gandhiji was tactical in moulding his approach while not compromising on his principles to secure Independence for India.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

14. Bring out the relationship between the industrial revolution and the advent of imperialism in different parts of the world. **(250 words) 15**
औद्योगिक क्रांति और विश्व के विभिन्न भागों में साम्राज्यवाद के आरंभ के मध्य संबंधों को स्पष्ट कीजिए।

The Industrial Revolution's first stage is dated around 1760-1820. Incidentally, this was also the time when the EIC won the Battles of Plassey & Buxar, & consolidated its hold on India under the watchful gaze of the British Parliament.

Need for imperialism for industrial revolution to expand

→ Lenin described imperialism as the last stage of capitalism.

→ Textile mills in UK required raw cotton to feed its expanding capacity

— Cotton from India, US and Latin America was imported into Europe.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

- to ~~feed~~ work cotton plantations in the Americas, slave labour was taken from Africa across the Atlantic.
- To forcefully procure raw cotton & slaves at low rates, political & military domination were resorted to. (i.e. imperialism)

→ Later, markets were required for European manufactures

- colonial possessions like India & Africa helped provide markets by ~~ensuri~~ very low import tariffs on European goods imposed by the colonial masters.

→ Indentured labour were also taken from the Indian subcontinent to Southern Africa & the Caribbean to work in the

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

British units over there.

→ Financing of new inventions after the spinning jenny required capital

- drain of wealth from India & ors contributed to this.

→ British industrialists & capitalists part of Parliament too so imperialism & IR went hand-in-hand.

→ Finally, coal from colonies helped run steam engines & thermal power plants in Britain, powering their IR.

Conclusion

Although the revolution brought some new tech. in acquired lands (like Telegraph & Railways), imperialism only furthered the interests of the capitalists & industrialists behind the IR.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

15. The caste system in India has continued to persist by adapting itself to a variety of changing socio-economic and political conditions in the past few decades. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में जाति व्यवस्था विगत कुछ दशकों में परिवर्तित होती विभिन्न सामाजिक-आर्थिक और राजनीतिक स्थितियों के अनुरूप अपने आपको ढालकर विद्यमान है। चर्चा कीजिए।

A recent study showed that intercaste marriges still account for only 3-5% of all marriges in India. - a sad rebuke to Dr. Ambedkar's hope in intercaste dining & intercaste marriage reducing the longevity of caste in modern India.

Response to changed socio economic situation

→ Economic development has increased massively in India in recent decades
- all castes, including lower castes & Dalits have gained from it.

→ Hower discrimination against lower castes candidates continues
- studies reveal that although Govt. emp. has become more equitable, pvt. sector is far behind.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

→ Gap between upper & lower castes has increased because high caste status usually translated into higher income & more opportunities in a liberalised economy.

- eg. upper castes more in high paying service sector jobs.

→ Education → lower castes have entered good schools now but upper castes increasingly opting for expensive private schools and pvt. tuitions.

Response to political changes

→ Mobilisation of lower castes in parties like BSP

→ But counter-mobilisation by upper castes also seen.

→ Real or imagined grievances against

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

reservations, social justice becoming a bigger theme in Indian politics

- opportunistic parties exploiting this tension

→ Greater polarisation in political discourse & voting patterns

- Dalits & Brahmins consistently vote for different parties.

Way forward

It is a dangerous sign that the caste system has acquired socio economic & political attributes, only strengthened over time. Counter-mobilisation and discrimination against lower castes in pvt. sector need to be addressed and managed to truly realise Ambedkar's & Gandhiji's vision for India.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

16. It is argued by some that regionalism is a threat to national integrity while others consider it as a highly impactful tool in facilitating political participation. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

कुछ लोगों द्वारा यह तर्क दिया जाता है कि क्षेत्रवाद राष्ट्रीय अखंडता के लिए एक खतरा है, जबकि अन्य लोग इसे राजनीतिक सहभागिता को सुगम बनाने में एक अति प्रभावशाली साधन मानते हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

Regionalism is the ideology that places one's regional identity at a higher pedestal compared to their other identities, most ~~so~~ notably, their identity of belonging to a nation-state i.e. nationalism.

Positive effects of regionalism on political participation

→ People who aim to safeguard their region's distinct language, culture, religion, or importance in the national discourse frequently ~~use~~ try to get elected to Parliament to further their regional interests e.g. DMK, AIADMK in TN, fighting protective of the state's interest when in Delhi.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

→ Otherwise, nationalism can seem distant and discourage participation in political affairs eg. NE hasn't been at the centre of national discourse - if no regional identity, then political beliefs will take a backseat.

→ Regionalism often helps in conserving one's language (eg. Anti-Hindi protests in 1960s, Spain (Catalonia), Belgium) - this raises possibility of participating in politics & communicating with your leaders better.

→ South Indian states often have higher turnout in LS elections than Northern States.

Negative effect on national integrity

→ It can often become violent & secessionist and can cause split in the country

eg. Bangladesh from Pakistan; Khalistani, ULFA movements in India.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

→ People reluctant to contribute to nation-building (paying taxes that benefit others, participating in military).

→ Reduces economic cooperation & inter-state migration (anti-UP/Bihar protests in Maha. bodes ill for the economic unity of India.)

Way forward

India has been a success story in managing its regional conflicts - from the time before Independence when princely states were being integrated, to now when secessionist movements in TN, Punjab, & to some extent the North East have mostly been controlled while the country reaps benefit from more active political participation.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

17. Natural gas has become an important primary energy source and its consumption is projected to increase further. Identify various usages of natural gas and give a brief account of its distribution globally.

(250 words) 15

प्राकृतिक गैस एक महत्वपूर्ण प्राथमिक ऊर्जा स्रोत बन गया है तथा इसके उपभोग में आगे और वृद्धि होने का अनुमान है। प्राकृतिक गैस के विभिन्न उपयोगों की पहचान कीजिए और विश्व स्तर पर इसके वितरण का संक्षिप्त विवरण दीजिए।

Natural Gas is increasingly becoming the fuel of choice to power the modern economy due to its cleaner composition compared to crude oil.

Uses of natural gas

→ It is widely used in transport around the world to replace more polluting fuels like petrol and diesel

- of buses in Delhi & most commercial vehicles can only run on CNG due to the city's problems with extreme air pollution.

→ Natural gas is also used ~~as~~ in power plants to generate electricity

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

- it has fewer damaging effects compared to ~~to~~ burning coal.

→ Domestic and household consumption as cooking gas.

→ To manufacture urea – a chemical fertilizer ~~rich~~ rich in nitrogen.

→ Heating in colder climes (like Europe, USA, Russia) often happens ~~due~~ from piped gas connections that transport gas at high temperature.

→ In the manufacture of various other products with industrial use where natural gas is an important input.

Geographic Distribution

→ Middle-East Asia (UAE, Iraq, Saudi Arabia) pump most of the world's natural gas

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

→ Russia's eastern region.

→ USA of late has become a big producer of shale gas.

→ Venezuela in South America.

→ Bombay High off the western coast of India near Mumbai.

→ Some deposits of natural gas also exist in Northern Europe and in Southern Africa.

Conclusion

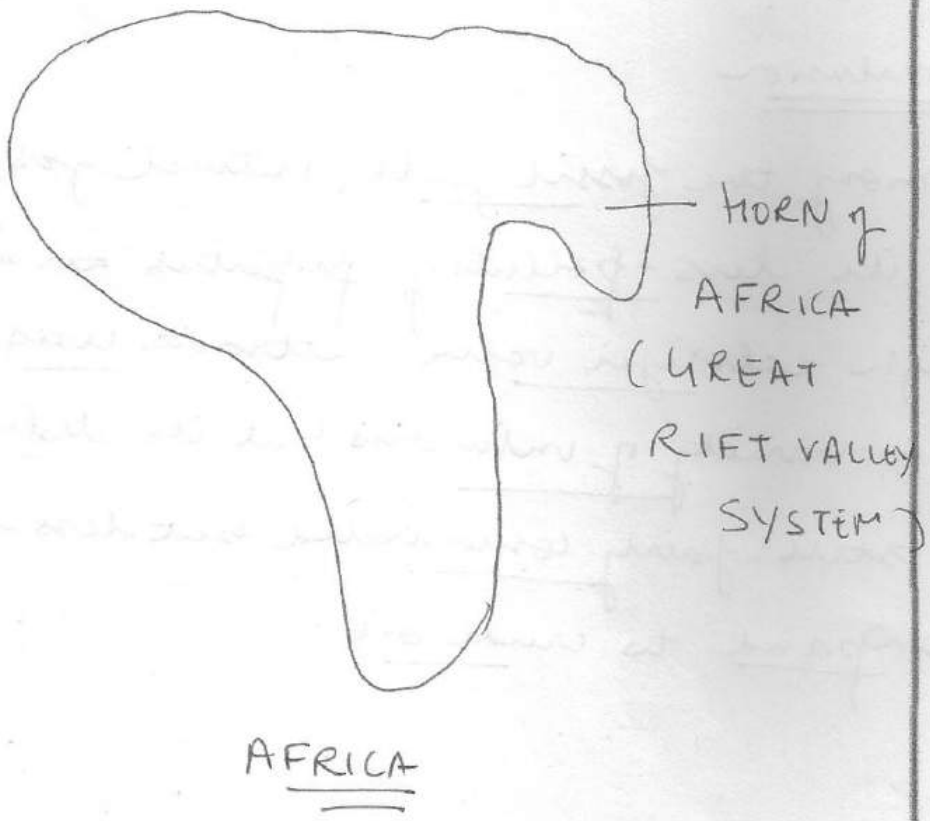
Among the fossil fuels, natural gas due to its less-polluting properties ~~attracts~~ & high calorific value attracts uses in a wide variety of industries but its distribution is still fairly concentrated but less so compared to crude oil.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

18. Describe the process of rift valley formation, with special emphasis on the Great Rift Valley System. **(250 words) 15**

महान भ्रंश घाटी प्रणाली पर विशेष बल देते हुए, भ्रंश घाटी के निर्माण की प्रक्रिया का वर्णन कीजिए।

The Great Rift Valley System is an important physiographic feature in the Horn of Africa, mainly Ethiopia. It can become one of the hottest places in the World due to its physical features



Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

→ It is ~~rau~~ formed by subsidence of the underlying system, causing the formation of a rift-valley.

Don't write anything this margin
(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

19. India's water resources have witnessed rapid depletion due to a mix of economic, geographic, and political factors. Explain and discuss its implications. **(250 words) 15**

भारत के जल संसाधनों में विभिन्न आर्थिक, भौगोलिक और राजनीतिक कारकों के संयोजन के कारण तेजी से ह्रास देखा गया है। स्पष्ट कीजिए एवं इसके निहितार्थों की विवेचना कीजिए।

Recent data suggests that over 20 metropolitan cities will run out of groundwater by 2020, including Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai, Bangalore & Hyderabad

Economic reasons for depletion

→ Industrialisation has increased in the country - factories (thermal power plants, iron ore) are the biggest consumers of water.

→ Agriculture - to feed ~17% of world pop. with significantly smaller proportion of water resources - rice, a water guzzling crop, is a staple in most parts.

→ Urbanisation has increased demand for water for household and garden uses.

Don't write anything this margin

Geographic reasons

→ Climate change has altered the frequency of monsoon.

- droughts & water shortages have become more common.

→ Runoff due to terrain + high evaporation due to high temperatures.

Political Reasons

→ To secure farmers' interests, free power is provided which leads to overexploitation of water resources in water stressed areas like Punjab & Haryana

- surprisingly, India is a net exporter of water due to its no. 1 status in rice exports.

→ Water tariffs set too low for households

Don't write anything this margin

to appease consumers

=> wastage and overuse.

Implications of rising water scarcity

→ Water shortages could become more frequent

- eg. in Chennai recently & Day 0 in South Africa.

→ Agri. production could suffer (rice, sugarcane etc.)

→ Water wars between states & countries due to shared rivers.

→ As heat stress ↑es (1000 deaths / year), water demand will rise too => greater stress on resources.

→ Industries will suffer - coal based power plants power 70% of electricity.

→ Expensive desalination plants will burden the exchequer.

Way Forward

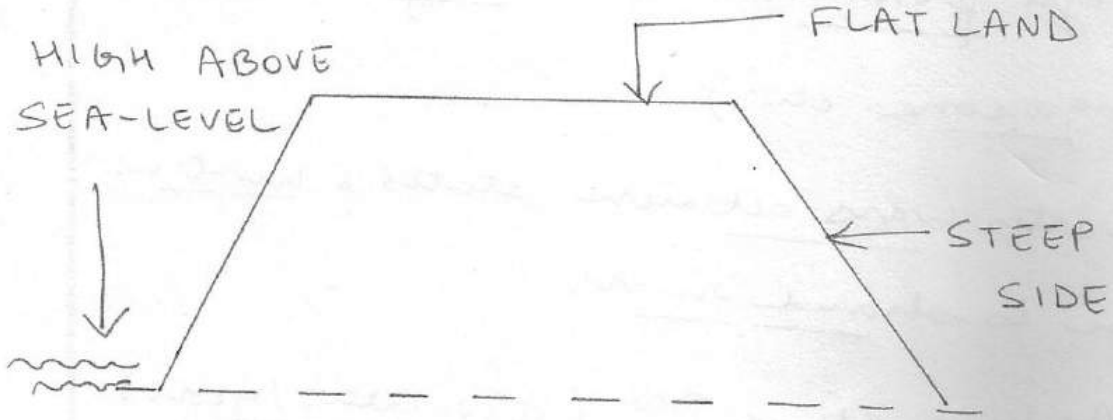
→ A cooperative & comprehensive approach is needed urgently to prevent water insecurity in future.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

20. How are plateaus formed? Also, briefly discuss the features of the Deccan plateau and its economic significance. **(250 words) 15**

पठार का निर्माण कैसे होता है? साथ ही, दक्कन के पठार की विशेषताओं और इसके आर्थिक महत्व की संक्षेप में विवेचना कीजिए।

A plateau is a portion of flat land with steep sides. It is elevated from the sea level compared to the plains but has a flat surface that permits habitation as compared to a mountain. eg: Chota Nagpur Plateau



Stylistic diagram of a plateau

Formation

→ When a hill is gradually eroded by fast-moving rivers.

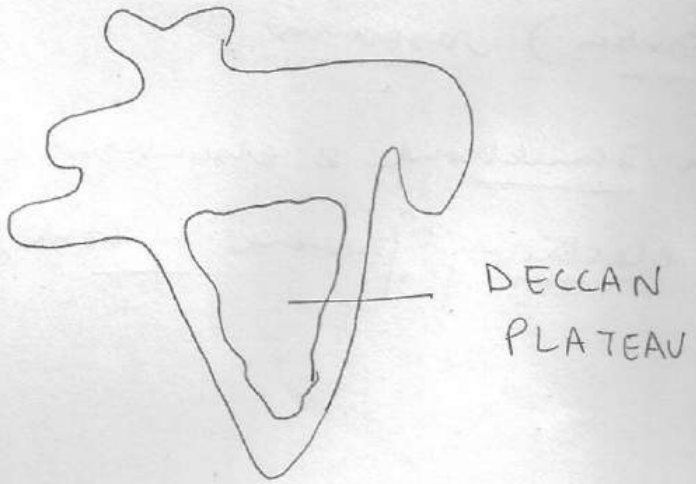
Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

→ Volcanic eruption that deposits large amount of lava on the Earth's crust (eg. Deccan plateau).

Features of Deccan plateau

→ It is the oldest and most stable landform ~~or~~ in the Indian subcontinent (so few or none major earthquakes in this region.)

→ It was formed due to ~~a~~ volcanic eruptions and subsequent depositions of material.



MAP OF INDIA

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Economic Significance of Deccan plateau

→ Storehouse of minerals like iron ore, bauxite, nickel etc.

→ Many economically vital rivers like Godavari & Narmada flow in the plateau, providing water & livelihoods to millions of farmers.

→ Stable landmass so habitations here are more secure.

→ Heavy Forest cover in some areas of the plateau (under MP, Chattisgarh) that provide livelihoods to millions of tribals & forest (timber) resources.

→ Coal in Jharkhand & elsewhere (70% of India's electricity powered by coal).

VISION IAS

www.visionias.in

GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1523)

Name of Candidate	SARTHAK AGRAWAL		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	937212
Center	ONLINE	Date	15th Dec' 20

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. **Contextual Competence**
2. **Content Competence**
3. **Language Competence**
4. **Introduction Competence**
5. **Structure - Presentation Competence**
6. **Conclusion Competence**

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

1. Enumerate the issues associated with functioning of the Central Information Commission. How can these issues be addressed?

(150 words) 10

केंद्रीय सूचना आयोग की कार्य प्रणाली से संबद्ध मुद्दों को सूचीबद्ध कीजिए। इन मुद्दों का कैसे समाधान किया जा सकता है?

The office of the Central Information Commission (CIC) was established by the RTI Act 2005.

Issues associated with CIC's functioning

1) High pendency of cases

2) Recently ~~its~~ the CIC/ICs terms of service, salary etc were transferred from Parliamentary control to Executive control by amendment in 2019.

↳ weakens its autonomy

3) Not able to enforce its decisions

↳ officials frequently delaying / giving incomplete info.

(eg. Aarogya Setu query)

Don't write anything this margin

4) Staff shortage
↳ without a Chairman for many months.

5) Public authority defined narrowly under Sec 2(h) → PM-CARES couldn't have been asked questions

6) Over-reach → CIC allowed petitioner to access PM's flight details against IAF desires

7) Frequent appeals to SC

Way forward

1) Constitutional status for CIC's/IC's

2) Appointing staff in a time-bound manner

3) Avoiding over-reach of powers

4) Increasing its powers to enforce decisions

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

2. In India, Governor's discretionary powers are wider than those of the President. Elaborate. (150 words) 10

भारत में, राज्यपाल की विवेकाधीन शक्तियाँ राष्ट्रपति की तुलना में अधिक व्यापक हैं। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए।

Article 153 of the Constitution establishes the office of the Governor & the following articles discuss its powers

Discretionary powers available to President

1) Appoint the Prime Minister when no party / coalition has a clear majority in the Lok Sabha

↳ although Sarkaria Commission + Bommai (1994) have provided certain benchmarks.

2) Ask the Cabinet to reconsider its advice but once.

3) Pocket Veto

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Discretionary powers with the Governor

1) The Constitution explicitly allows the Govt the latitude 'to act on his discretion' in the ~~attude~~ article that otherwise makes the State Council of Ministers' advice binding on the Governor.

2) She also has powers to appoint CM when no party has clear majority
↳ eg: Koshyari in Maharashtra recently

3) Recommend for the imposition of President's rule in a State when government cannot be carried out under the provisions of the Constitution.

4) Sitting on certain bills (pocket veto) or not ~~implementing~~ concurring with Cabinet's advice in a time-bound way
↳ recent debate between Mahe' CM & Gov. for not approving list of 12 members to council

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

3. Highlight the objectives that were sought to be achieved through tribunals. How successful have they been in meeting them? **(150 words) 10**

उन उद्देश्यों को रेखांकित कीजिए जिन्हें अधिकरणों के माध्यम से प्राप्त करने का प्रयास किया गया था। वे उन्हें पूर्ण करने में कितने सफल रहे हैं?

The 42nd amendment of 1976 added Articles 323A (administrative tribunals) & 323B (tribunals for other matters) to the Constitution, which was given force by the 1985 Act that ultimately set up CAT and other tribunals.

Objectives of tribunals

1) Speedy and cheap justice for certain aggrieved sections

↳ e.g. public employees

2) Reduce pendency in courts

↳ already over 2.95 crore cases are pending.

3) Provide for expertise that may not

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

be available within judiciary

↳ eg. Income Tax Tribunals

4) Increased opportunities for aspiring judges.

Evaluation of tribunals

Successes	Failures
1) Tribunals have been set up for a variety of cases.	1) Violates separation of powers (Art. 50)
2) Disposal rate is high.	2) Dispute reg. appointment of members (Roger Mathew 2017; divisions under Madras Bar Association 2010 not followed by Govt.
3) Increasing recourse to tribunals by public	3) Tribunalisation of justice
4) Many legal professionals have been trained	4) Over-reach in some cases.

Conclusion

Despite challenges, tribunals have also achieved significant success.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

4. Instead of the government regulating Over-the-top (OTT) platforms, there have been calls for a self-regulating mechanism for such platforms, as in the case of print media. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

सरकार द्वारा ओवर-द-टॉप (ओ.टी.टी.) प्लेटफॉर्म्स को विनियमित करने के स्थान पर, ऐसे प्लेटफॉर्म्स के लिए एक स्व-विनियमन तंत्र हेतु आह्वान किया गया है, जैसे कि प्रिंट मीडिया के मामले में किया गया है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Recently, the government allowed Ministry of I&B to regulate OTT platforms, which were earlier overseen by MeitY, raising concerns of censorship of platforms like Netflix and Hotstar.

~~Need for Government~~

Benefits of self-regulation

1) Consistent with FOE under Art 19(1)(a)

2) Non-paternalistic approach

3) High competition in industry
   ↳ platforms cannot afford to not cater to consumers' interests.

4) Press Council of India / NBAI type body can be elected by OTT platforms

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

themselves to oversee functioning

5) Allow people to consume the content that is not allowed by the Censor Board for movies.

Need for Government regulation

1) Anti-national content may be displayed on OTT platforms

2) obscene content (IPC Section 294)

3) Cultural values may be compromised + exposure of adult content to young children

4) Inciting religious hatred
↳ IPC Sec 153A

5) Blasphemous content - IPC Sec 295-A

6) No guarantee that self-regulation will work

Way forward

The Govt. needs to adopt a light-touch regulation policy if it goes that way & not invite charges of censorship.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

5. Bring out the arguments surrounding the issue of some states reserving jobs for locals in the private sector. (150 words) 10

कुछ राज्यों द्वारा निजी क्षेत्रक में नौकरियों को स्थानीय लोगों के लिए आरक्षित किए जाने से संबंधित मुद्दे के चतुर्दिक तर्कों को स्पष्ट कीजिए।

Article 16 of the Constitution allows ~~the~~ Parliament to prescribe residence or domicile as a pre-condition for getting employment with any state government. However, states like Haryana have passed laws to reserve 75% of private sector jobs (below a threshold) for locals.

Arguments for 'Jobs for Locals' in private sector:

1) Will lead to inclusive growth and balanced regional development

↳ income growth for the bottom quartile has been very low.

2) Article 16 only restricts government jobs - private jobs may still be

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

reserved for locals

3) Local population more attuned with local needs

4) Face fewer language barriers.

Arguments against this trend

1) Against a 'unified labour market' in India.

2) Constitutional competence may be examined by SC.

3) Poorer states like Bihar / UP rely on migration to richer states like Haryana.

4) Skill deficit in local areas
↳ doesn't allow best talent to find a job

5) Worsens the profitability of pvt. sector

6) May lead to more discrimination against migrant workers.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

6. Identifying the key elements of Mission Karmayogi, briefly explain how it can lead to holistic development of the human resources and state's capacity. **(150 words) 10**

मिशन कर्मयोगी के प्रमुख तत्वों की पहचान करते हुए, संक्षेप में स्पष्ट कीजिए कि इससे मानव संसाधन और राज्य की क्षमता का समग्र विकास कैसे हो सकता है।

Mission Karmayogi has been recently launched to transform civil servants' capabilities from being 'rule-based' to 'role-based'.

Key elements of Mission Karmayogi

- Continuous learning for civil servants
- Focus on employees of all levels
- Stresses on-site instruction as well
- Help in developing competencies in certain areas.
  - ↓ taken into account in posting
- Sufficient budgetary allocation
- New institutions created – Training Advisory Council chaired by PM

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Benefits

1) Fourth Industrial Revn

↳ continuous skill upgradation

2) Reduces expenditure on off-site training

3) Creates a skilled government workforce that can efficiently deal with 21st c. challenges

4) Using ~~skills~~ skills assessment to award postings

↳ lead to better leadership of Govt. departments.

5) Increase innovative capacity of public servants.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

7. Highlighting the role played by ASHA workers in public health system of India, discuss the challenges faced by them. **(150 words) 10**
भारत की सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली में आशा कार्यकर्ताओं द्वारा निभाई गई भूमिका को रेखांकित करते हुए, उनके द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली चुनौतियों की विवेचना कीजिए।

ASHA workers are part of the National Rural Health Mission and come under the Health Ministry

→ (25-45 yrs of age woman, educated until 8th class)

Role played by ASHA workers

1) First port-of-call for health problems in villages

2) Help in guiding women on contraception & birth control

3) Assist new mothers with supplementary ~~nutri~~ nutrition & vaccinations for new-born.

4) Carry out vaccination drives when required by the Govt.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Challenges

1) Low salary
   ↳ stipend of 1000 Rs. pm

2) Over-worked
   ↳ maintaining many different registers.

3) Lack of overtime bonus
   ↳ eg. in Covid crisis

4) Lack of protective equipment to deal with public health challenges.

5) Social discrimination in some cases.

Way forward

ASHA workers must be rewarded with better pay and other benefits owing to their service in combating the Covid pandemic.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

8. While internationalisation of higher education has many potential benefits for India, certain challenges will need to be addressed in this regard. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

यद्यपि उच्चतर शिक्षा के अंतर्राष्ट्रीयकरण के भारत के लिए कई संभावित लाभ हैं, तथापि इस संबंध में कुछ चुनौतियों का समाधान करने की आवश्यकता होगी। चर्चा कीजिए।

The New Education Policy suggests that well-performing Indian institutes be allowed to set up campuses in other countries. Similarly, it suggests that Parliament pass a law to allow foreign higher education institutions (HEIs) to set up a campus in India subject to regulation.

Benefits of internationalisation of HEIs

1) Reduce brain drain if universities like Harvard set up an India campus

2) Increase foreign exchange inflows

3) Lead to better skill development in the country

4) Due to competition, domestic institutes

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

may improve too

5) Help in taking GER in higher-ed. from 25 percent to 50 percent by 2035.

6) Build a research culture in India (only 2013 patents filed with WIPO v/s >53,000 for China.)

Challenges

1) Increased fees might make quality higher-ed. inaccessible to poor

2) Curriculum design, recognition of 4 year UG degrees, 1 year MBAs

3) Less interest among foreign univs. to enter India

4) Higher ed. becomes a commercial venture like in West v/s public good in India.

5) Indian univs may not be able to compete abroad

Way forward → If challenges are addressed, this might help more universities break into top 500

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

9. India needs to adopt a more pragmatic stance in the context of the ongoing intra-Afghan talks. Discuss, in the light of India's engagement with Afghanistan. **(150 words) 10**

भारत को वर्तमान में जारी अंतरा-अफगान वार्ताओं के संदर्भ में अधिक व्यावहारिक रुख अपनाने की आवश्यकता है। अफगानिस्तान के साथ भारत के जुड़ाव के आलोक में चर्चा कीजिए।

India has desisted from dealing with the Taliban over the years, arguing they do not represent ~~to~~ the will of the Afghan people and underlining their support for an 'Afghan-led arrangement'.

India's contribution to peace in Afg.

1) Salma Dam construction
2) Parliamentary building
3) Road construction + Chabahar port + Chabahar-Zahedan Rly. link to allow Afg. exports to India through sea.
4) Cultural contributions - training Afg. cricket team.
5) Support for Ashraf Ghani over the Taliban.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Problems with current approach

1) Not accepting reality
   ↳ Taliban controls >50% of area

2) Left out of talks due to this stubborn-ness

3) Pak. getting increasing hold + Ashraf Ghani not arguing for greater Indian involvement

4) Ungoverned spaces → threat of terror

5) Drugs inflow into India - Golden Crescent

Way forward

As suggested by many experts, India must recalibrate its stance, ensure that no ungoverned spaces are left, women & minority rights are secured, and peace returns to Afg. after US withdrawal.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

10. In the geo-strategic context of West Asia, the recent efforts to normalise relations between Israel and UAE may open new possibilities for India. Analyse. **(150 words) 10**

पश्चिम एशिया के भू-रणनीतिक संदर्भ में, इजरायल और यू.ए.ई. के मध्य संबंधों को सामान्य बनाने के लिए हाल ही में किए गए प्रयासों से भारत हेतु नई संभावनाएं उत्पन्न हो सकती हैं। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

The Abraham Accords brokered by the USA help resolve some of India's perennial middle East conundrum - balancing between Iran, Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Positive implications for India

1) Can build its growing relationship with Israel while maintaining close ties with Gulf countries like UAE.

2) Better safety for 3m Indian migrants in UAE and 8.5m overall in Gulf.

3) Peace in Middle East => oil prices might remain low => helps with our CAD.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

4) India can now support both Israel and Palestine (techno park) with ~~less of~~ fewer contradictions

Challenges

1) Growing US-led coalition against Iran
   ↳ also a partner of India (Chabahar port)

2) Greater chance of conflict between Saudi-US led forces & Iran (developing nuclear weapons)
   ↳ instability in West Asia

3) Saudi has not normalised relations yet.

India has expressed satisfaction at this agreement and must continue to engage with all its partners in the region.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

11. It is not only the content of election manifestos but also the past performance with respect to promises made in election manifestos that need to be regulated. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

केवल चुनावी घोषणा-पत्रों की विषयवस्तु को ही नहीं, बल्कि चुनावी घोषणा-पत्रों में किए गए वादों से संबंधित विगत निष्पादन को भी विनियमित किए जाने की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Under the Model Code of Conduct, the Election Commission implores political parties to not make extravagant promises they won't be able to keep due to lack of funding.

Need for regulating progress w.r.t past promises

1) Will lead to a more informed citizenry and better ~~voting~~ chances of voting judiciously

↳ SC has described information as fundamental to Art. 21.

2) Make parties more accountable

↳ can be challenged if promises aren't kept.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

3) An impartial agency can conduct such an analysis before each election

↳ eg. PRS Legislative

4) Voters may not have the time and skill to check past promises against performance

5) Might reduce voting on caste or communal lines

6) Encourage parties to put only actionable items in the manifesto

Limitations

1) The manifesto has no legal standing.

2) Paternalistic approach

↳ voters can judge for themselves if promises are kept or vote on other lines as they deem fit

3) Concern around biased regulation

4) Not all promises are spelled clearly

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

5) Crisis might impact performance on some items

↳ eg. Covid crisis threw a spanner into Govt's infrastructure push

6) Not all promises are desirable

↳ BJP had UCC in its manifesto but Law Commission has advised against it.

7) Might lead to charges of over-regulation of political parties - unlikely to attack the real challenges of criminalisation & money power in elections.

8) Already opposition & media scrutinises past manifs

Way forward

Political parties need to be more transparent as reflected in 2nd ARC reports & various SC judgements. Perhaps having them under the ambit of Sec 2(h) of RTI Act 2005 (public authority) might make them more accountable for their manifesto promises.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

12. In order to achieve a reduction in the pendency of cases and a return to the Supreme Court's original role as a final appellate court, setting up of a National Court of Appeal is the need of the hour. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

लंबित वादों की संख्या में कमी लाने और उच्चतम न्यायालय को अंतिम अपीलीय न्यायालय के रूप में उसकी मूल भूमिका में पुन: स्थापित करने के लिए, एक राष्ट्रीय अपील न्यायालय स्थापित करना समय की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

As of date the Supreme Court has over 59,000 pending cases, many of which are writ petitions under Article 32 and others appeals under Article 136.

Need for setting up a National Court of Appeal

1) Split the SC's functions

- Constitutional cases decided in SC
- National Courts of Appeals in major centres

2) Long pending appeal cases will be resolved quickly

↳ eg: Ram Mandir case took over 7 years

Don't write anything this margin

3) Economic governance suffers with long delays in ~~appe~~ decisions on appeals

↳ e.g. bankruptcy cases

4) Under Article 136 the SC can provide leave to hear any case

↳ this has vastly increased pendency

5) Overuse of PIL and Article 142 have increased workload for judges & reduced efficiency

↳ recently, judges were increased 30 to 33 (+1 CJI) to meet this need.

Concerns with National Court of Appeal

1) Might weaken the Supreme Court's institutional standing in India's polity

↳ still one of the most respected

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

institutions for the public

2) Concern regarding what happens to the SC's other functions?

↳ original jurisdiction under A-131

↳ writ under A-32

↳ advisory under A-143

↳ PIL + A-142 - led to improvements in environment & increased focus on reducing criminalisation of politics

3) Additional expenditure on salaries & infrastructure

4) If cases increase due to better efficiency, problem will still stand (Court has a very wide & expanding jurisdiction)

Way forward

Ultimately the CJI can decide the seat of the SC under the Constitution. A full bench rejected this proposal earlier but it deserves more thought given the contemporary challenges.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

13. The Constitution of India reflects an amalgamation of spirit of Indian freedom struggle and various administrative provisions of different acts of British rule in India. Explain. **(250 words) 15**

भारत का संविधान भारतीय स्वतंत्रता संघर्ष की भावना और भारत में ब्रिटिश शासन के विभिन्न अधिनियमों के अनेक प्रशासनिक प्रावधानों के मिश्रण को दर्शाता है। व्याख्या कीजिए।

The Constitution of India builds upon the structure bequeathed by the GOI Act 1935 and yet includes provisions guaranteeing the most extensive rights available in the world under Part III.

How the Constitution reflects the ideals of the freedom struggle

1) Articles 13-35 in Part III - Fundamental Rights.

↳ Article 21, safeguards under 22

- provided with memory of British police state & to avoid that outcome

2) Six rights under Art 19(1)

↳ 19(1)(a) → FOE, fought for by nationalists

↳ 19(1)(b) → right to protest

Don't write anything this margin

3) Communal harmony was a common thread in the freedom struggle

↳ Arts. 25-28 for that.

4) Protecting minority rights in the face of British divide and rule

↳ Art. 29 & 30

5) Right to equality (A-14), special provisions for SCs/STs (15(4)) often being denied by British.

6) Empowering Panchayats through 73rd amend

↳ British placed powers in the hands of officials instead of elected leaders.

7) Universal adult franchise - denied under British rule.

Inspiration from British provisions

1) 7th Schedule based on Montague - Chelmsford

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

2) Parliamentary system with President as nominal head (A-52)

3) Governors appointed by Centre (A-153)

4) UPSC, CAG and other constitutional bodies → GOI Act 1935

5) Reservation partly inspired by communal electorates ~~by~~ under Morley-Minto (1909) & Montague-Chelmsford (1919) → 15(4) & 16(4)

Conclusion

The Constitution is thus a healthy mix between its different inspirations as reflected in Dr. Ambedkar's response when he was accused of 'copying' the 1935 GOI Act.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

14. Mention the key components of the SVAMITVA scheme. Also, highlight its intended benefits and discuss the potential issues in its implementation. **(250 words) 15**

स्वामित्व (SVAMITVA) योजना के प्रमुख अवयवों का उल्लेख कीजिए। साथ ही, इसके अपेक्षित लाभों को रेखांकित कीजिए तथा इसके कार्यान्वयन में संभावित मुद्दों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

The SVAMITVA scheme was launched recently to use technology to better compile land records in rural India.

Components of SVAMITVA

1) Integrated solution

2) Uses drone technology, survey of India's capabilities & leverages other stakeholders' expertise to digitally prepare accurate land records in rural India.

3) Started off in a few states - plan to expand to rest of India in the future.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Intended benefits of the Scheme

1) Poor landowners will get accurate land titles, helping build up their legal assets. (reduces MPI poverty which also takes into account assets owned)

2) Can use as collateral to avail credit.

3) Property rights regime will allow hassle-free trade of land

4) Eases land dispute cases which have clogged up lower courts - 2.94 crore cases are pending.

5) Government will have up-to-date records of each land-holding
↳ will help in designing poverty-alleviation schemes, land records modernisation scheme, land consolidation and even land reforms in pursuit of Articles 39(b) and 39(c).

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Potential issues

1) Ambiguous as to who owns the land in the presence of many disputes
↳ cannot easily assign a parcel of land to a household.

2) Concern among local landowners that this is a guise for land alienation

3) Technology portals and equipment (eg: camera-equipped drones) may be costly to roll out over 6.6 lakh villages in India

4) Need collaboration among many stakeholders
↳ land a state issue under 7th Schedule + Survey of India + GPs under 73rd amend.

Way forward

SVAMITVA should be taken forward in mission-mode to realise its potential for inclusive growth & property rights regime.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

15. Sharing of information among all stakeholders in government functioning is a leading practice towards good governance. Discuss with examples.

(250 words) 15

सरकारी कार्यप्रणाली में सभी हितधारकों के मध्य सूचना को साझा करना सुशासन के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण परिपाटी है। उदाहरणों के साथ चर्चा कीजिए।

The RTI Act 2005 and the Jan Soochna Portal launched by the Rajasthan government are examples of increased information sharing by Govt. among the public and other key stakeholders.

Role of information sharing in good governance

1) Better sharing of information

↳ more transparency ↓

greater possibility of good governance. ← more accountability

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

2) Can lead to new ideas and solutions to existing challenges if various stakeholders are allowed to contribute ideas

↳ eg: in pre-Budget consultation, the FM meets stakeholders from industry, labour unions, farmer groups and even ordinary people.

3) ~~With better w~~ Leads people to think they are also a part of nation-building

↳ eg: NITI Aayog met thousands of people before formulating its 2022 strategy document

4) Inspires committed young people to aspire for a career in the Govt.

↳ eg: Arvind Subramanian's

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

lectures on Economic Survey increased interest in the IES profession

5) Media interviews, press conferences by PM & Ministers allows media to scrutinise their claims in public interest

6) ~~Covid~~ During Covid, daily press conference by ~~Mins~~ govt. officials so that fake news is replaced by official news.

Way forward

More measures of information sharing by Govt. functionaries among all stakeholders must be institutionalised for the sake of better governance.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

16. India has an oversized and bloated government which acts as a drag on economic efficiency and growth. Critically evaluate. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में आवश्यकता से अधिक आकार और अतिशय दायित्वों को वहन करने वाली सरकार है, जो आर्थिक दक्षता एवं वृद्धि के संबंध में एक अवरोध के रूप में कार्य करती है। समालोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

According to some reports, India has over 16 million people working in the government (State or Centre) with around 3.6 million employed by the Union Govt alone.

Need for scaling down government

1) Modern, 21st century ~~cte~~ India → most activities left to the private sector
   ↳ less need for Govt to employ thousands of employees in the 250+ CPSEs across 38 ministries.

2) Despite reforms, share of public sector workers hesn't decreased by much (Nagaraj, 2015)

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

3) Artificially high wages in government
↳ makes it difficult for corporates to attract talent

4) Fewer accountability & incentive mechanisms for Govt. employees
↳ productivity & efficiency is low

5) Even at political level, despite 91st Amendment of 2003, 15 percent of ministers from total MPs/MLAs comes out to be a large figure.

6) Share of Govt. in GDP is 23 percent – only 2 pp smaller than in 1990.
↳ private sector facing unfair competition.

Benefits of current Govt. size

1) Articles 38, 39, 41, 46, 47 & others implore the Govt. to take an active part in country's affairs → Welfare State

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Orientation

2) Out of total employment of >400m, Govt's share is small.

3) Other, richer countries also have large sizes of government (eg: Sweden)

4) More than size, accountability & incentive mechanisms are important.

5) Chronically understaffed across some verticals

→ 1 doctor per 1456 popⁿ → WHO says 1 per 1000

→ 25% defaulting in police

→ 20/1L judges (LC says 50/1L judges).

Way forward

More than the size, the distribution of Govt workforce can be altered. Staffing should improve in health, education & police while PSBs and other CPSEs can be disinvested as also recommended by NITI's 2022 Strategy.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

17. Though the National Digital Health Mission is a step in the right direction for both patients and the healthcare system, concerns around data privacy need to be addressed. Examine. **(250 words) 15**

यद्यपि राष्ट्रीय डिजिटल स्वास्थ्य मिशन रोगियों और स्वास्थ्य देखभाल प्रणाली, दोनों के लिए उचित दिशा में उठाया गया एक कदम है, तथापि डेटा गोपनीयता से जुड़ी चिंताओं का समाधान किए जाने की आवश्यकता है। परीक्षण कीजिए।

The National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) was announced on 15th August this year. It has emerged from the work NITI Aayog has done on a National Health Stack in recent years.

Benefits of NDHM for ~~pates~~ patients

1) No need to carry prescriptions
   ↳ all data stored online

2) Can compare hospitals from the aggregated data
   ↳ spurs competition ⇒ improved service for patients.

3) Better knowledge of location of pharmacies - lowers drug cost
   (OoP on health 62% at present
   (14% elsewhere)

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Benefits of NDHM for hospitals

1) Less expenditure on prescriptions & record keeping
   ↳ all data stored online

2) Can look up a patients' entire medical history very easily
   ↳ improves diagnosis

3) Insurance companies can price their products better.

4) Government hospitals can aggregate data from NDHM to spot patterns.

Concerns around data privacy

1) No law to protect this sensitive data.

2) Personal Data Protection Bill not passed yet.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

3) Enormous commercial opportunity for intermediaries to exploit.

↳ if without consent, violates Right to Privacy (Puttuswamy)

4) Targeting of ads + overpricing of insurance based on health conditions

Way forward

The government has assured the public that adequate safeguards will be built in. In this system, no data will be shared unless explicit consent is given. Finally, a health data protection law is also promised - these are all necessary measures that will obviate concerns & increase its uptake

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

18. One Nation One Ration card has the potential to significantly transform the lives of migrant workers in India. Analyse. **(250 words) 15**
वन नेशन वन राशन कार्ड में भारत में प्रवासी श्रमिकों के जीवन को महत्वपूर्ण रूप से रूपांतरित करने की क्षमता है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

'One Nation, One Ration Card' was a recommendation made by the Partha Mukhopadhyay Working group on migration (2015) considering the needs of India's 65 million migrants (33% workers; Census 2011 says 450m migrants).

One Nation One Ration Card Scheme (ONOR)

1) Uses the IM-PDS scheme portal
2) Aadhaar card linked to ration card.
3) Migrant workers can avail rations anywhere in India (<50% of family allocation)
4) Only central PDS is covered
   ↳ not state top-ups or subsidies, eg. in Telangana.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Benefits of ONOR

1) We saw in Covid crisis that migrants' economic situation is precarious

↳ will atleast be guaranteed foodgrain wherever they go.

2) Spur competition between ration shops

↳ improve service delivery & reduce corruption for migrant workers.

3) Aadhaar linked so less chance of leakage.

4) Data collection using biometric portal

↳ this 'big data' can lead to further innovations in PDS in India

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Challenges

1) No common food diet

↳ what will a UP migrant in Chennai get since diets are so different?

2) Aadhaar linkage may generate problems if PoS machines do not work.

3) State food subsidies not covered

↳ eg. TN offers some grain for free.

4) Method of enforcing ONOR - through tying up state borrowings (0.5 of GDP) with ONOR against federalism

5) Migrant workers face other major challenges - discrimination, unemployment etc.

Way Forward

The ONOR is a positive step - Govt. must incorporate NITI Aayog's & Economic Survey's recommendation on PDS reforms to make it a sigma success.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

19. The World Trade Organization is buffeted by multiple challenges which have eroded the credibility of the organization. Analyse. **(250 words) 15**

विश्व व्यापार संगठन कई चुनौतियों से ग्रस्त है, जिसने संगठन की विश्वसनीयता को समाप्त कर दिया है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

The World Trade Organisation emerged as a successor the Bretton Woods' creation GATT. However, it has been in a paralysed state lately with the US blocking appointments of members to its appellate body.

Challenges faced by WTO

1) Countries openly flouting WTO rulings

↳ China-US trade war

↳ India solar panel dispute with USA.

2) Blocking of appointments to the dispute settement body's (DSB) appellate tribunal

↳ has left it with no teeth.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ न लिखें)

3) Developing countries fear and accuse WTO of being biased against them

↳ eg: Doha Development Agenda (2001) is still stuck

4) Slowing global trade, inward & protectionist turns, and rise of plurilateral (RCEP) & bilateral trading agreements

↳ eg: Indo-US trade deal in the wraps.

5) Accused by US of being pro-China

6) Any country can designate itself as developing country & avail benefits

7) Institutional paralysis: relies on consensus rather than majority

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

How WTO can uphold its credibility

1) Amending its provisions
↳ allowing decisions by majority vote

2) Paying greater attention to low-income countries' concerns
↳ Doha Development Agenda to be revived

3) Take a stand against US bullying

4) Have an impartial body designate countries as developing countries & LDCs for the sake of benefits under WTO's agreements

5) Appoint more international people at its leadership positions.

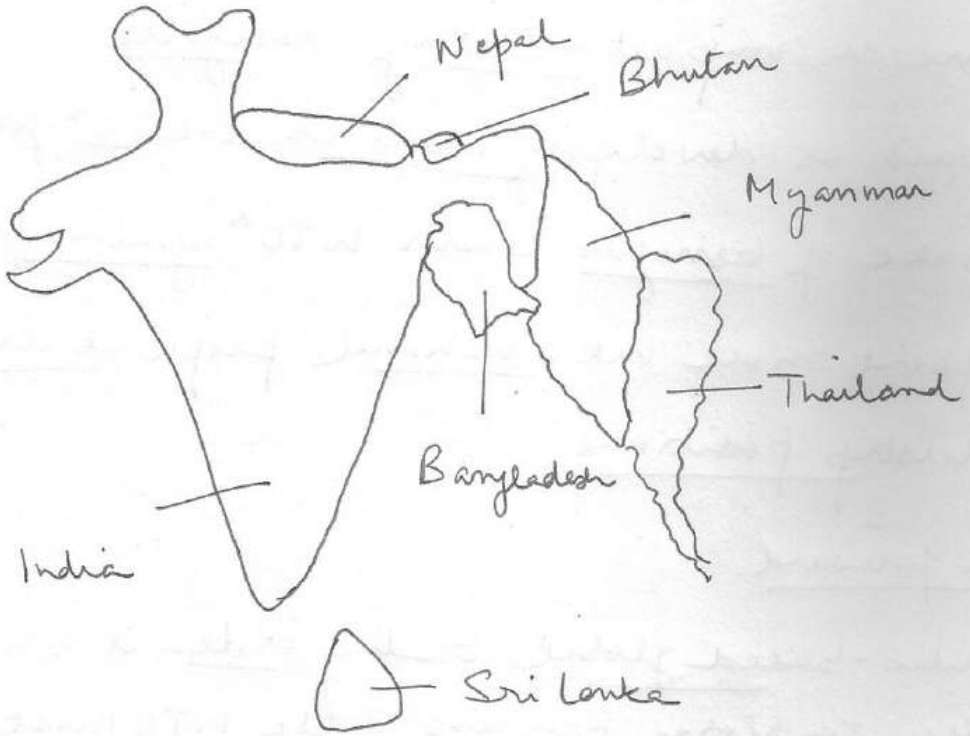
Way forward

A rules-based global trading order is the key to global progress & the WTO must reinventizely to restore its credibility.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

20. BIMSTEC is indispensable for India's efforts in promoting regional cooperation and integration in the neighbourhood. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**
बिम्सटेक (BIMSTEC) पड़ोस में क्षेत्रीय सहयोग और एकीकरण को बढ़ावा देने की दिशा में किए जाने वाले भारत के प्रयासों हेतु अपरिहार्य है। चर्चा कीजिए।

The Bangkok Charter gave rise to the BIMSTEC we see today. Although it was initially more of a substitute for SAARC sans Pakistan, it has acquired a character of its own in light of India's 'Neighbourhood First' and 'Act East' strategies.



BIMSTEC

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

BIMSTEC's potential for regional cooperation and integration

1) Grouping of economically dynamic countries - Thailand & B'desh fast becoming major exporters of apparel.

2) Less concern of cross-border terror sponsorship with Pakistan out of the way

3) Increased possibility of agreements v/s SAARC

↳ eg. South Asian Motor Vehicles Agreement → BBIN corridor

- South Asian Satellite → cooperation with BIMSTEC countries on space

4) Indo-Pacific dimension

↳ Bangladesh & Thailand are players in the Indian Ocean.

5) Cultural connect → Thailand (Hinduism, Buddhism), Myanmar (Buddhism)

6) Due to dilution of visa in neighbouring

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ न लिखें)

countries, potential for cooperation on connectivity.

Challenges faced by BIMSTEC

1) less institutionalised compared to SAARC.

2) Chinese shadow & cheque-book diplomacy
↳ other countries active in China's BRI plan.

3) Slow progress in connectivity projects
↳ eg. Bhutan backing out of BBIN

4) Indo-Nepal disputes | Cross-border support for militants & drugs (Myanmar) | Water sharing dispute (B'desh)

5) lesser cultural convergence v/c SAARC

Way Forward

Countries in BIMSTEC must enhance cooperation. Indeed the PM has referred to it as the natural platform for India's Act East strategy